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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

E185

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EUR-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	ASDS-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00	/001W	
				-----BD01A3 042118Z /34			

P 041002Z NOV 03
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3603
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCSO MIAMI FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 003767

NSC FOR TSHANNON
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS USAID FOR DCHA/OTI
STATE ALSO FOR DS/ICI/CI AND DS/IP/WHA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/31/2013
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, ASEC, VE
SUBJECT: CHAVEZ BACKS UP MVR DEPUTIES' COUP PLOT CLAIMS

REF: A. CARACAS 3738
B. CARACAS 3705
C. CARACAS 3666

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR CHARLES SHAPIRO FOR REASONS 1.4(B) AND (D)

1. (U) PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ ON OCTOBER 30 BACKED UP THE ACCUSATIONS OF CIA COUP-PLOTTING LEVELED BY FIFTH REPUBLIC MOVEMENT (MVR) DEPUTIES NICOLAS MADURO AND JUAN BARRETO (REF A). SPEAKING DURING A NATIONALLY-BROADCAST ADDRESS, CHAVEZ SAID THE TWO DEPUTIES HAD PRESENTED "UNQUESTIONABLE PROOF (THAT) DESPERATE SECTORS OF A PERVERT ELITE CONTINUE TO MAKE PLANS ... TO DESTABILIZE THE COUNTRY AGAIN." HE WARNED THAT "THEY WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL. WE WILL NOT PERMIT IT."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ALAN H FLANIGAN
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 3 NOV 2023
DATE/CASE ID: 13 JUN 2007 200504156

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2. (U) CHAVEZ REITERATED HIS CONSPIRACY THEORY DURING HIS NOVEMBER 2 "ALO, PRESIDENTE!" BROADCAST, FOCUSING ON THE RECORDED PHONE CONVERSATION MADE PUBLIC BY BARRETO AND MADURO BETWEEN CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS OF VENEZUELA (CTV) PRESIDENT CARLOS ORTEGA, IN EXILE IN COSTA RICA, AND CTV SECRETARY GENERAL MANUEL COVA. CHAVEZ SAID HE GAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO FORMIN ROY CHADERTON TO WARN THE COSTA RICANS THEY ARE PERMITTING CONSPIRACIES TO TAKE PLACE IN SAN JOSE AND THAT THE GOV WILL NOT SIT IDLY BY.

3. (U) VICE PRESIDENT JOSE VICENTE RANGEL REACTED NOVEMBER 2 TO THE COMMENTS OF SECRETARY POWELL AND SPOKESPERSON RICHARD BOUCHER OVER THE ALLEGED COUP PLOTTING. RANGEL, WHO APPEARED TO HAVE NOT READ CAREFULLY EITHER STATEMENT, DISMISSED THE COMMENTS AS "ROUTINE" AND "PERMANENT PROVOCATIONS," ADDING THAT SECRETARY POWELL DISPLAYED A "SUPINE IGNORANCE OF HISTORY" IN SAYING THAT VENEZUELA IS LIVING IN THE 19TH CENTURY. RANGEL OPINED THAT USG LEADERSHIP IS "TRAUMATIZED" BY ITS PROBLEMS IN IRAQ AND OTHER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. "WHILE PRESIDENT BUSH OCCUPIES HIMSELF WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING IN IRAQ," HE SAID, "THE MOST IMPORTANT STATE IN THE NATION IS BURNING," A REFERENCE TO WILDFIRES IN CALIFORNIA.

4. (C) COMMENT: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THOUGH CHAVEZ AVOIDED DIRECT MENTION OF THE CIA IN HIS REMARKS ON OCTOBER 30 AND NOVEMBER 2, HIS COMMENTS LEAVE LITTLE DOUBT HE SUPPORTS THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE USG AND OTHER "CONSPIRING" NATIONS. CHAVEZ AND THE MVR HAVE MADE A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO LINK THE REFERENDUM PROCESS AND THE OPPOSITION'S SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN TO INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY AND TO A RETURN TO RULE BY THE OLD POLITICAL PARTIES. AS STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM TO US, HE IS LINKING THE OPPOSITION TO CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ (HOSPITALIZED IN NEW YORK WITH A STROKE). RANGEL'S COMMENTS ECHO THE POPULAR CHAVEZ LINE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS. WE EXPECT THE ALLEGATIONS TO CONTINUE, WITH THE NEXT INSTALLMENT REPORTEDLY DUE THIS WEEK (ALTHOUGH MADURO AND BARRETO CLAIMED THAT THEY LOST MATERIAL IN AN OCTOBER 31 BURGLARY), POSSIBLY INVOLVING OPPOSITION FIGURE HENRIQUE SALAS ROMER AND, AGAIN, THE U.S. SECURITY COMPANY WACKENHUT.

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